# A COLONY HOG HOUSE

*By* W. W. SHAY,
*In Charge Office of Swine Extension, Animal Industry Division.*

he percentage of pigs lost at or shortly after farrowing time is very
ı.

he cost of a suitable colony house for saving these need not be over
en to twenty dollars for labor and material.

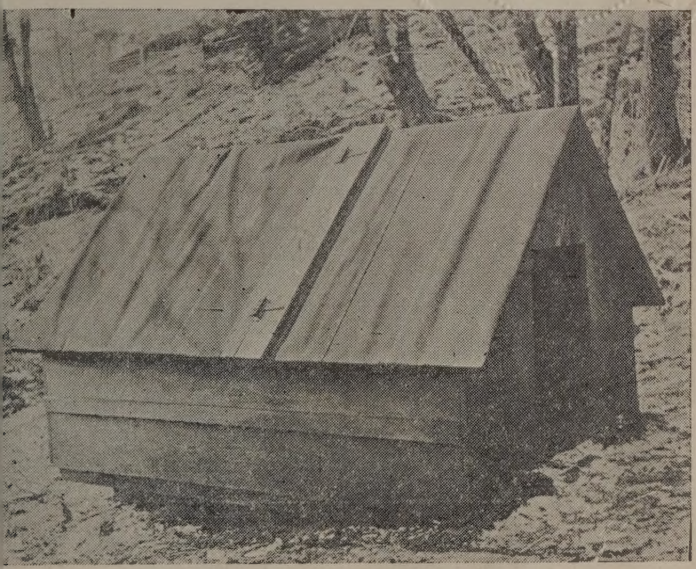

FIG. 1.—*The Colony Hog House.*—This house is shown as used in the pasture of a North Carolina hog farm.

litter of eight or ten pigs, well cared for, may easily weigh a ton at
ıt months of age, and at ten cents per pound a ton of pork is worth
hundred dollars; yet for the lack of a suitable house, on which the

. State College of Agriculture and Engineering, N. C. State Department of Agriculture,
C. Agricultural Experiment Station, and U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperating
**Agricultural Extension Service**
B. W. KILGORE, *Director*
Raleigh and West Raleigh

interest and depreciation charges would amount to less than two dollars and fifty cents per year, many a litter is lost, and with it goes returns for the feed consumed by the sow during the preceding six months.

## DESIRABLE FEATURES

A farrowing house should be arranged to provide plenty of sunshine. It should be so constructed that no drafts may chill the pigs newly far-

FIG. 2.—*The Colony Hog House.*—Partly open for ventilation.

rowed during a cold night. Such pigs, in order to thrive, must have a dry bed. On the other hand, dust is very bad for them.

Good ventilation during the hot months is necessary.

Fenders, which prevent pigs being crushed by the sow often save enough pigs from a single litter to pay the entire cost of the house.

A three or four-inch strip nailed to the front edge of the rear fender converts it into a shallow trough, which, always being protected from the weather, makes an ideal place in which to keep condiments such as salt, lime, sulphur, hardwood ashes, and raw ground phosphate rock.

While it is possible to make a satisfactory hog house from old scraps of lumber lying about the place, the use of such material usually neces-

tes too much extra labor. This labor is incurred in fitting joints to lude cold and prevent drafts, either by the extra use of a rip saw or heavy battens. Considering the present price of labor, it is doubtful ny saving is realized from the practice of using such scrap material. The tendency, where such material is made use of, is to either slight work, leaving cracks which may result in the loss of pigs from pneu- nia contracted during a cold night, or to cover such cracks with wide rds, thus making a heavy house which is hard to move from one

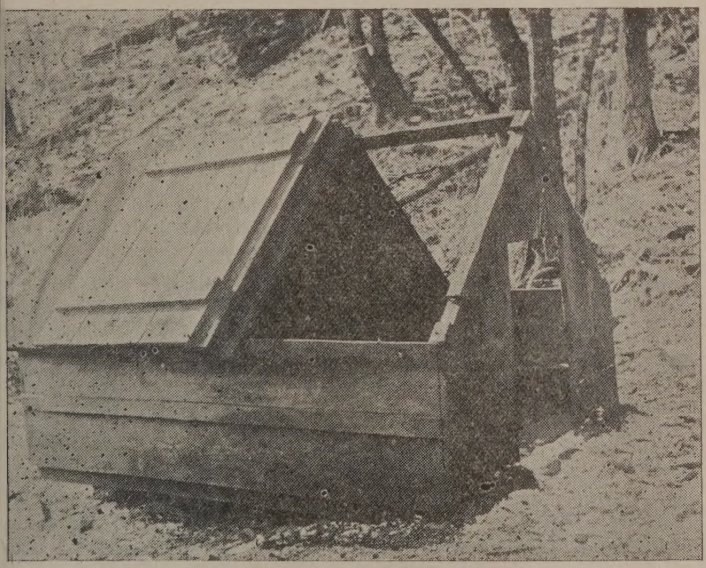

FIG. 3.—*The Colony Hog House.*—Fully open to admit both sunlight and fresh air.

cation to another to avoid mud or to provide housing on another asture. Such moving should easily be accomplished with the use of e horse.

There is some question about the desirability of a floor in the small lony house. It is considered advisable for the reasons that during a ainy period it is easier to keep a dry bed and during a dry time it is asier to combat the dust nuisance. The fenders over a board floor are lways useful. In the case of a ground floor, low places are frequently ade by the sow, which makes it difficult for very young pigs to avoid eing crushed.

## BILL OF MATERIAL FOR COLONY HOG HOUSE

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 pieces 4″ x 4″ x 10′—runners (rot-resisting wood) | 30 feet |
| 4 pieces 2″ x 4″ x 10′ framing | 27 " |
| 3 pieces 1″ x 8″ x 8′ fenders | 16 " |
| 1 piece 1″ x 9″ x 12′ roof joint cleat | 9 " |
| 50 feet, surface measure, 1¼″ x—x 12′ floor | 63 " |
| 80 feet, surface measure, 1″ x—x 8′ walls, matched preferred | 100 " |
| 90 feet, surface measure, 1″ x—x 10′ roof | 120 " |
| 1 roll felt roofing with cement and nails. | |
| 5 pounds No. 8 nails, 2 pounds No. 16 nails. | 365 " |
| 2 pairs 8″ hinges with screws (T hinges). | |

## TOOLS REQUIRED

Sharp hand saw, rip saw, square, hammer, screwdriver, chisel, axe. Al material should be on the ground and all cutting tools sharp before beginning and a couple of saw trusses or suitable box upon which to lay plank fo sawing.

## DIRECTIONS FOR BUILDING

First. Build the floor, using three runners 4 in. x 4 in. x 9 ft. long (6-inc extension on each end) ; the floor boards should be of 1¼-inch material 6 fee long, and should, when completed, be 6 ft. x 8 ft.

Second. Cut four corner posts of 2 in. x 4 in. x 28 in. long, nail the 30-inc side-wall boards to these posts, allowing the wall to extend 2 inches below th posts (to cover the ends of the floor boards), nail the side walls in position

Third. Frame the two pairs of end rafters (half pitch) and nail them int place on the corner posts. Rafters cut 4 ft. 4 in. on the long edge at an angl of 45 degrees will fit. Put in the 2 in. x 4 in. ridge pole.

Fourth. Board up the two ends, leaving opening for door 2 feet wide an 3 feet high.

Fifth. Cut the brackets for fenders, the fenders should be *eight inches* abov the floor. No fenders are needed for the front end, and the side fenders ma be of 2 in. x 4 in. and removable if preferred, but the one at the back en should be 8 inches wide and formed into a condiment box. The fenders shoul be nailed to the brackets before putting into position with brackets on top t leave clear space all around to protect pigs.

Sixth. Beginning at the rear, nail the roof boards to the side wall and ridg pole a little over half the length ; tack the front half of the roof in place unti cleats are nailed in position to make it a door (*note joint*). Cut center runne even with floor on front end and put eye bolts with rings in ends of outsid runners. Cleats for roof doors should be nailed on under side.

Seventh. Cover entire roof with felt roofing ; cut roofing, after nailing i place, along line of hinge joint ; nail a batten 6 inches wide firmly to *roof door* overlapping hinge joint 3 inches on each side ; hinge this batten and door to 3-inch strip nailed securely to the stationary part of roof, and paint thoroughly

(Reprint Extension Circular, No. 89)